

**INTERVIEW SUMMARY**  
**Task 0001 Site 2**  
***Lower Darby Creek Area Site***



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**Richard Stewart**

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Prepared for:

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Region 3**  
Enforcement Support Services  
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

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Prepared by:

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Work Assignment Number:	Task 0001 Site 2
Date Submitted:	December 8, 2004
Contract Number:	EP-S3-04-01
EPA Work Assignment Manager:	Carlyn Prisk
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Chenega Project Manager:	Ilona Poppke
Telephone Number:	(215) 491-7286
Interviewer:	Michael McCloskey
	Tri-State Enterprise

ORIGINAL

**Name:** Richard Stewart (WITNESS)

[REDACTED]

**Affiliation:** Former Fire Chief, Darby Township Fire Department.

**Telephone:**

[REDACTED]

**Type of Interview:** In-Person

**Date of Interview:** December 7, 2004

On December 7, 2004, the WITNESS was interviewed at his residence by Michael McCloskey, Senior Investigator, of Tri-State Enterprise. The WITNESS was interviewed as part of the Potentially Responsible Party search currently being conducted under Task 0001, Site 2 involving the Lower Darby Creek Area, Delaware County, PA (the "Site.") This interview focused on the Clearview Landfill. The WITNESS was provided with a copy of the letter of introduction, advised of the nature of the questions to be asked and that the interview was voluntary. The WITNESS stated that he is not represented by an attorney in this matter and does not want an attorney. No other persons were present during this interview and the interview was not tape-recorded.

During the course of this interview, the WITNESS responded to questions based on guidelines provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for area residents/Government officials.

The WITNESS was shown an aerial photograph of the Site and this aerial photograph was used as a reference throughout the interview.

The WITNESS was asked to explain his associations with the Clearview Landfill.

The WITNESS stated that he has been a volunteer fire fighter with the Darby Township Fire Company since 1954. The WITNESS further stated that he was the Fire Chief from 1956 to 1965.

The WITNESS explained that he responded to fires at the Clearview Landfill numerous times in the 1950s and 1960s. The WITNESS stated that the Clearview Landfill was also known as "Hellers Dump."

The WITNESS was asked if he had observed trucks dispose of waste at the Clearview Landfill. The WITNESS stated "yes" and provided the following:

The WITNESS stated that he was aware that the Clearview Landfill opened prior to 1954.

The WITNESS did not know the exact date on which Clearview opened. The WITNESS stated that he had observed the following communities' trash trucks dispose of waste on the Clearview Landfill:

- Sharon Hill
- Darby Township
- Folcroft Township
- Collingwood Township
- City of Philadelphia.

The WITNESS stated that numerous trash companies also disposed of waste at the Clearview Landfill; however, he could not recall any further names.

When asked if he knew the names of any businesses that disposed of waste at the Clearview Landfill, the WITNESS stated "yes". The WITNESS stated that in approximately 1958, he responded to a truck fire on the Clearview Landfill. The WITNESS stated that when he arrived, the fire had been extinguished. The WITNESS stated that the truck was a 2.5 ton closed truck. The WITNESS stated that the truck had a load of magnesium shavings and, while unloading the magnesium, the truck caught fire and the driver of the truck died in the fire. The WITNESS stated that, as the Fire Chief, he investigated the fire and was able to determine that the magnesium shavings were from either the General Electric Plant or the Westinghouse Plant. The WITNESS stated at the time of his investigation he knew exactly which company had generated and transported the magnesium. The WITNESS stated that he is sure it is one of the two he named.

The WITNESS stated, from 1954 to approximately 1968, the Clearview Landfill was not covered each day. The WITNESS stated that open burning of waste on the landfill commonly resulted. The WITNESS stated, in approximately 1968, the PA Department of Environmental Resources ordered the Clearview Landfill to begin covering the landfill at the end of each day. The WITNESS stated that the fires were less common after the landfill began covering the fill areas.

When asked the names of individuals with whom he had contact at the Clearview Landfill, the WITNESS provided the following:

- Ed Heller: The WITNESS stated that Ed Heller owned and operated the landfill in the 1950s and 1960s. The WITNESS stated that his son Richard Heller became the manager of the landfill in approximately 1970.

When asked if he had ever observed drums or bulk liquid waste on the Clearview Landfill, the WITNESS stated "yes" and provided the following:

The WITNESS stated that steel fifty five (55) gallon steel drums were always mixed in with the regular trash. The WITNESS could not recall any names or markings on the drums.

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The WITNESS stated, in approximately 1963, he responded to a fire on the Clearview Landfill. The WITNESS stated that the fire was an open burning type of fire. The WITNESS stated that the ground was muddy and that puddles of paint were mixed in with the mud. The WITNESS stated that the fire equipment and the fire clothing were damaged by the paint. The WITNESS described the paint as dark blue or black. The WITNESS stated that after the damage to the equipment was assessed, Ed Heller agreed to pay for replacement clothing. The WITNESS did not know if Heller ever did actually pay for this damage. The WITNESS stated that he does not know how the paint got on the landfill. The WITNESS stated that there was a very large amount of paint covering a large portion of the landfill.

The WITNESS stated, in approximately 1961, he recalls a fire at the Clearview Landfill that lasted more than twenty-four (24) hours. The WITNESS stated that five (5) fire companies from the area communities and three (3) Philadelphia Fire Companies were needed to control the fire. The WITNESS stated that the fire started from open burning and spread through the entire landfill.

The WITNESS stated that many of the fires on the landfill in the 1950s and early 1960s were started from "hot loads." The WITNESS stated that many homes in the area were heated with coal burning stoves and that ashes from these stoves were still hot when picked up by trash collectors. The WITNESS stated that when the hot ash was dumped on the landfill, the ashes would start a fire.

The WITNESS stated he believed the base of the Clearview Landfill was below the water level. The WITNESS stated that he recalls houses located on the landfill at the base of the current hill in the early 1950s. The WITNESS recalls that after almost every drenching rain the Darby Township Fire company had to respond to the area in row boats and help the residents out of the area. The WITNESS stated that he does not know the names of any of the residents that lived on the landfill.

The WITNESS stated that there were numerous trash dumps in the Darby Township area in the 1950s. He identified one dump located on both the east and west side of Hook Road next to the tank farm. The WITNESS stated that what is now "Conway Park" was a trash dump in the 1950s.

"I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)